THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d) Government have approved fleet renewal plan of Air India and Indian Airlines to provide them a policy frame to have a more modern and younger fleet for improving aircraft utilisation, on-time performance and passenger appeal. The practice so far has been that the two national airlines retire aircraft after about 20 years. Approval has now been given for a 10 year roll out plan for Air India; in Indian Airlines, it is about 15 years. The roll out plans are also intended to be staggered with a view to avoiding large scale bunching of aircraft replacement. On current reckoning, the number of aircraft to be replaced until the year 2010-11 is 49 in the case of Air India and 56 in the case of Indian Airlines. The plans are only indicative and their implementation would depend upon the results of detailed techno-economic evaluation of specific replacement proposals.

Commercial pilots from rural areas

1106. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many operators have been issued permits to operate Air Taxies at present;

(b) what steps are being taken to trim the operations of scheduled flights of Indian Airlines to keep up punctuality;

(c) whether it is a fact that only a privileged small section is enjoying the available facilities of pilot training; and

(d) whether there is any scheme to select and train qualified boys from rural areas as commercial pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Seven operators have been isued permits for Air Taxi operations.

(b) Steps taken by Indian Airlines to ensure punctuality of its scheduled flights include monitoring of delays and instituting suitable remedial action wherever necessary, provision of adequate infrastructure for handling/maintenance of aircraft, creation of standby capacity and retionalisation of schedule to the extent possible.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Non operation of Indian Airlines flights

1107. DR. BALDEV PRAKASH:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:
SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSH:
SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of scheduled Indian Airlines flights that were missed or cancelled during the period from January to June, 1992, together with the reasons;

(b) what is the number of occasion when the staff had struck work during the same period, together with the details of the category of employees involved and man days/hours lost as a result thereof;

(c) what is the number of flight-hours lost during the past six months due to non-availability or shortage of spares, together with the names of the aircrafts; and

(d) what is the amount of loss incurred by the Indian Airlines due to the above factors?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) During January to June, 1992, out of